AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An extruder screw nose for a discharge end of an extruder having a screw with at least two helical flights rotatable in a cylindrical barrel for propelling an extrudate material from an upstream portion of said barrel to a downstream portion characterized by said screw nose having an upstream portion of increasing diameter in the direction of flow of said extrudate providing a generally conical surface for decreasing a transition space between said screw nose and said cylindrical barrel and maintaining working engagement with said extrudate to maintain pressure on said extrudate at said discharge end.

2. (Currently Amended) The extruder screw nose according to claim 1 wherein said extruder has an adjacent flow channel block with a converging tapered wall, said extruder screw nose, said extruder nose further characterized by having a downstream portion of decreasing diameter in said direction of flow providing a generally conical surface generally parallel to ~~a~~ said converging tapered wall of ~~an~~ said adjacent flow channel block for maintaining working engagement with the extrudate and maintaining the pressure on the extrudate at said discharge end.

3. (Original) The extruder screw nose according to claim 1 further characterized by said upstream portion of increasing diameter having a conical surface disposed at an angle of 45 degrees to 65 degrees relative to the axis of said screw nose.

4. (Original) The extruder screw nose of claim 3 further characterized by said angle of said conical surface of said upstream portion being about 50 degrees.

5. (Original) The extruder screw nose according to claim 2 further characterized by said generally conical surface of said downstream portion being at an angle of 35 degrees to 45 degrees relative to the axis of said screw nose.

6. (Original) The extruder screw nose of claim 5 further characterized by said angle of said generally conical surface of said downstream portion being at an angle of about 40 degrees.